

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 41-47, 65 and 67-73 have been amended, and Claims 95-96 have been added to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of the invention. Furthermore, Claims 12, 19, 27, 29-40, 48-64 and 75-94, which stand withdrawn from consideration, have been amended with a view toward their rejoinder in view of the allowability of their respective base claims. Accordingly, Claims 1-96 are pending.

The Office Action objected to Figure 11. Applicants have amended Figure 11 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Figure.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-11, 13-18, 20-26, 28, 41-47 and 65-74 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments presented herein.

The claims have generally been amended to provide proper antecedent basis and to correct typographical errors.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the claims are definite.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-11, 13-18, 20, 23-26, 41-47 and 65-74 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,266,740 to Cotterman (hereinafter "Cotterman"). Without acceding to the rejection, independent Claim 1 has been amended more particularly to set forth certain features of Applicants' invention.

As presently amended, Claim 1 additionally recites, that a ring gear of the planetary mechanism is connected to a clutch case of the second clutch and an output shaft is connected through a carrier of the planetary mechanism to a hub of the second clutch.

Cotterman is directed toward a vacuum controlled automotive transmission gear. However, Cotterman fails to teach, suggest or disclose the ring gear, planetary mechanism, clutch case, output shaft, carrier and hub arrangement as claimed. Therefore, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from Cotterman.

Independent Claim 67 recites, *inter alia*, a control method of a starting clutch having a planetary mechanism, a first clutch, a second clutch and a lock mechanism, the method comprising outputting an amplified torque by the fastening of the first clutch and the second clutch.

Cotterman fails to teach, suggest or disclose outputting an amplified torque by the fastening of a first clutch and a second clutch as claimed.

The Matsuoka and Teske patents, which were cited in connection with several of the dependent claims, fail to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Cotterman with respect to the independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn. It is further requested that all claims withdrawn from consideration be rejoined and allowed in view of the allowability of base Claims 1 and 67.

The newly presented claims are also believed to distinguish patentably from the references of record.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

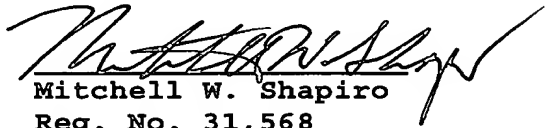
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

MWS:JHV:adc

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